HQ. UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA
SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA
APO 777 US ARMY

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PE-19919

25 April 1946

SUBJECT: Sarazen

TO : 209, SI Branch, SSU Washington

[1. Refer your memorandum, same subject, dated 10 April.]

1. The allegation that travel papers for Dubois were incorrectly prepared by Sarazen was made, from a distance, by the Rome office which did not first check the facts with us. There was a minor error in the birth dates of Dubois which caused his removal from the train on technical charges. This was due to a slip on the part of our operatives in Hungary who supplied the data for the travel request. These things can happen at any time when people are working under pressure.

2. Phil Barry and I had a long talk on the subject and Phil prepared the cable which we hope has corrected the X-2 Washington impression of the case. X-2's prejudice against Sarazen seems to stem from an unfortunate report by Francis Kalnay during the war, which Phil and I agree was unjustified. This report showed a spiderweb of intrigue running out from Rome, which included alleged Axis agents. In a refutation of this report, I pointed out, in writing, to X-2 Washington that several British agents were in the center of the alleged net as well as several people working with us.

3. There is no question in our mind but that the Sarazen reports are among the most outstanding produced by the Mission. [He is extremely anxious to obtain American citizenship and to date we have been able to do nothing for him in this regard.] He has written anti-Communist as well as anti-Nazi books prior to the war and is at the present time "stateless" in the worst sense of the word. Should he be eliminated, he and his wife and children would be in an extremely uncomfortable position in Europe. Our tremendous regard for Sarazen is shared by Berne and Amzon who have also worked with him closely. [I personally am sponsoring him for American citizenship and my only regret is that I cannot speed up the process.]

4. With regard to our present operational arrangements for Sarazen, it is necessary for him to wear U.S. civilian uniform because he must travel by car through the Russian zone. It is quite possible that he would one day disappear should he not have American protection. [As soon as we can get him his first citizenship papers, we plan to take him out of uniform and place him under the cover of representative of an American Catholic publication here.] He is not allowed any "operational" freedom in this office.

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does not see copies of our reports, and keeps his lines as separated from the rest of the organization as our present facilities will permit. Major Barry states that Sarazen has no contact with X-2 here except in an advisory capacity on occasion, and his only regular contact with X-2 Rome has been the sharing of agent Klein (Irving Smith). He is a "lone operator", not a part of the office staff. We are trying to get him a private apartment but have had difficulty because there is a housing shortage here too. There is also the problem of rations.

6. Sarazen is a Jesuit and an extremely devout Catholic. His writings against both the Communists and the Nazis were on religious grounds. He is in the liberal Catholic tradition and does not, for example, concur with the lack of courage exhibited by Cardinal Innitzer during the war, nor does he condone the anti-Russian politics of Cardinal Mindszenti in Hungary at the present time. He has exceptional balance, uncanny ability to organize intelligence contacts, and a very deep personal loyalty to those executives of this organization with whom he has worked for the past two years. Martin Hinler concurs in a strong recommendation of Sarazen. He states that he knew Sarazen's writings before meeting Sarazen himself. Asked in Cairo as to the advisability of hiring Sarazen, Hinler advised OSS to recruit him on his past records, and declares he has not changed his opinion of Sarazen to date.

7. We therefore feel that until such time as we can give him the protection of American citizenship, we should continue to handle Sarazen along present lines. Major Barry has read and concurs in the statements herein.

Alfred C. Ulmer, Jr.
Chief SI/Austria

cc: Major S.P. Barry, Chief X-2/Austria

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